GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3726
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2005
INDO NEPAL TRADE
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Birgunj inland container depot in Nepal has been thrown open to India-Nepal bilateral trade with effect from February 1, 2005;

(b) if so, the extent to which it is likely to improve Indo-Nepal trade; and

(c) the route which will be helpful to both India and Nepal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Yes Sir. Bilateral traffic between India and Nepal by rail to and from Birgunj via Raxaul has been opened with effect from February 1,2005.

(b) and (c):

(i) Bilateral traffic can be booked to Birgunj from all stations open for rake handling on Indian Railways and vice-versa.

(ii) Traffic moving by road between India and Nepal will be diverted by rail.

(iii) It will reduce transit time and provide better customer services. This facility is expected to boost the bilateral trade significantly.